

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-4, and 8-11 remain in this application. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2, and 5-7 are canceled. No new matter is introduced.

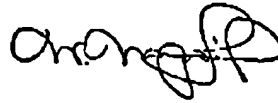
Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Thomas et al (US 5,413,439). Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas et al. in view of Aubin et al (US 6,196,775). Claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 8-11 are allowed.

The Examiner also indicated that Claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include all the limitations of the original Claims 1 and 2. Thus, Claim 1 should now be allowable. Claim 2 is canceled. Claims 3-4, which depend from Claim 1, should now also become allowable. A dependent claim should be considered allowable when its parent claim is allowed. In re McCarn, 101 U.S.P.Q. 411 (CCPA 1954). Claims 5-7 are canceled.

In light of the foregoing, it is believed that the present invention is in condition for allowance. And Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner has any question, he or she is invited to call or fax Applicant's counsel at the telephone numbers below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date

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